IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing packets at a firewall in a packet-switched network comprising:

receiving an outbound packet from a process group network address; and

authorizing subsequent inbound packet traffic destined for the process group network address, wherein said process group network address is assigned to a transient host process group.

2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of canceling authorization for subsequent inbound packet traffic destined for the process group network address after a period of time.

3. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein the outbound packet begins a connection protocol and authorization is canceled after the connection terminates.

4. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the addresses are expressed as IPv4 address.

5. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 1 wherein the addresses are expressed as IPv6 addresses, wherein a portion of the address is reserved to identify [[a]] said host process group.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of processing packets at a host which are destined for a firewall in a packet-switched network comprising the steps of:

assigning a process group network address to a first outbound packet commencing a transient process;

transmitting the outbound packet to a firewall on its path to its destination in a packet-switched network;

receiving inbound packets addressed to the process group network address; and

authorizing, based on the process group network address ~~receiving~~ and associating inbound packets addressed to the process group network address with the transient process.

7. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 6 wherein the transient process is a connection across the packet-switched network to another host.

8. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 6 further comprising the step of notifying the firewall when the transient process terminates.

9. (Original) The invention of claim 6 wherein the host uses a dynamic host configuration protocol to dynamically assign the process group network address.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for performing a method on a firewall connected to a packet-switched network comprising the steps of:

receiving an outbound packet from a process group network address; and

authorizing subsequent inbound packet traffic destined for the process group network address, wherein said process group network address is assigned to a transient host process group.

11. (Original) The invention of claim 10 further comprising the subsequent step of canceling authorization for subsequent inbound packet traffic destined for the process group network address after a period of time.

12. (Original) The invention of claim 11 wherein the outbound packet begins a connection protocol and authorization is canceled after the connection terminates.

13. (Original) The invention of claim 10 wherein the addresses are expressed as IPv4 address.

14. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 10 wherein the addresses are expressed as IPv6 addresses, wherein a portion of the address is reserved to identify [[a]] said host process group.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for performing a method on a host connected to a packet-switched network comprising the steps of:

assigning a process group network address to a first outbound packet commencing a transient process;

transmitting the outbound packet to a firewall on its path to its destination in a packet-switched network;

receiving inbound packets addressed to the process group network address; and

authorizing, based on the process group network address ~~receiving~~ and associating inbound packets addressed to the process group network address with the transient process.

16. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 15 wherein the transient process is a connection across the packet-switched network to another host.

17. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 15 further comprising the step of notifying the firewall when the transient process terminates.

18. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein the host uses a dynamic host configuration protocol to dynamically assign the process group network address.